

IGA Perth Royal Show

1st October to 8th October 2011



October 4, 2011

Portrait of a winner

Margaret River artist Roddy Darlington has won this year's Open Art Exhibition with his sensitive portrayal of a young woman entitled *Portrait of Amy*.

His work has netted him \$15,000 prize money, the biggest sum ever offered.

It is a welcome win for the stay at home Dad, who fits in painting between caring for his two sons, aged 18 months and five years.

If the portrait does not sell, he will give it to the mother of the subject, who was thrilled when she saw the painting.

The Royal Agricultural Society of WA increased the prize money from \$5000 to \$15,000 to reflect the high standard of entries in the competition.

Chief steward and curator John Cook says the increase in prize money has brought a lot of new artists into the competition.

The judges described Roddy's work as, "A sensitive portrait very well executed with subtle and clever use of colour. A sense of intimacy with a compelling engagement between the sitter and the viewer."

The best rural artist went to Evelyn Sturges, of Coolup, with *Harvester on the Farm*. She receives \$1500 prize money.

Highly commended works include:

John Ainsworth of Thornlie with *Not Negotiable*.

Craig Boulter of Beaconsfield with *Dingo Flour Mill (North Fremantle)*.

Jane Grierson of Kardinya with *The Gallery*.

Winner of the \$500 Sentinel Stockbroking Packers Prize was Graham Smith of Northam with *Who's Next*.

The Framing Vouher winner (\$500) was Anne Lantzke of Woodlands with *Moonstone Diptych*.

Exhibited works from the competition are displayed and for sale at the Art & Photography Gallery during the eight day Show alongside the works from the Agricultural Art Award competition.

There is the chance to vote for the People's Choice award while there. That winner will receive \$500.

The IGA Perth Royal Show is on from Saturday 1st October to Saturday 8th October 2011.

As part of month long celebrations in the lead up to Perth hosting CHOGM, all children aged 12 years and under will receive FREE entry to this year's IGA Perth Royal Show when accompanied by an adult.